
OAHE CHAPEL NEWS

Summer 2008

Newsletter of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society

Pierre, SD

Summer Events Held in Historic Oahe Chapel

Originally part of the Oahe Mission established by Congregationalist missionaries, the Oahe Chapel is now owned by the South Dakota State Historical Society. It is managed by the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society, a not-for-profit group that oversees the maintenance and preservation of the Chapel. Although it is no longer used on a daily basis, various churches in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area gather there for Sunday services at 8:00 a.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This year, eight area churches hosted the services. The Chapel is also available for rent throughout the year for weddings, family reunions, and other special celebrations. Five couples were married in the Chapel during the summer of 2008. Those who participate in the events at the Chapel enjoy its unique history and scenic location. If you have never joined us for an event, mark your calendar for next summer's Sunday services, or call the South Dakota State Historical Society today to find out how to rent the Chapel. We would love to see you there! ❖



Oahe
Chapel,
North of
Pierre, SD
on Highway
1804

RENT THE CHAPEL

Call now to reserve the Oahe Chapel for your wedding, church service, family reunion, or other special event! The Chapel is available for rent year round. The cost to rent the facility is \$50, and members of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society are eligible to rent the facility for a reduced rate of \$35. To learn more, contact the South Dakota State Historical Society at (605) 773-3458. ❖

Oahe Chapel Preservation Society Hard at Work

Support the work of the Society

Over the years, the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society (OCPS) has continued in its mission to maintain and preserve the chapel for the enjoyment of the public. To that end, the OCPS has undertaken a number of maintenance projects, including stabilizing the foundation, leveling and reinforcing the floor, repairing and replacing the siding, and repairing the bell tower. More recent projects have included repairing the window sills, repainting the windows, re-shingling the west side of the roof, and repairing some of the exterior trim. These projects would not have been possible without the generous support of our members. This summer, several storms took a toll on the wood siding, and the OCPS is working to repair the nicks and dents. You can help us tackle these and other important maintenance projects by sending your donation today. A **membership form** is located on the back of this newsletter, or you can give a one-time gift of any amount. Donations to the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society are tax deductible where allowed by law. Thank you for your continuing support! ❖

OAHE CHAPEL PRESERVATION SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Oahe Chapel Word Find

The history questions at right need to be answered! Fill in the missing word, and then find it in the puzzle below. Words may be up, down, across, or diagonal. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

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| S | M | I | S | S | O | U | R | I | A | O | I |
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Word Find Questions

- 1) The Oahe Mission was established by Rev. Thomas L. _____, a Congregationalist minister.
- 2) The missionaries chose to build on the site of an old Arikara Indian village called _____, which was later shortened to "Oahe."
- 3) Services were originally conducted in the _____ language but only English was used by 1931.
- 4) The Oahe Mission was originally located on the east bank of the _____ River at Peoria Flats.
- 5) The Chapel was relocated to the east end of _____ Dam in 1964.
- 6) The Oahe Chapel _____ Society is the not-for-profit group that oversees the maintenance and upkeep of the Chapel.
- 7) Ecumenical Sunday Services are held at the Chapel at 8:00 a.m. from _____ Day through Labor Day.

Artifacts Display History at Oahe Chapel

Before every Memorial Day, staff members of the South Dakota State Historical Society bring six artifacts from the Society's collection to the Chapel. These include a portrait of Oahe Mission founder Rev. Thomas L. Riggs,

a Waterbury clock, the Oahe Congregational Church charter, and prints of *Madonna Di San Sisto*, *Suffer Little Children*, and *Madonna with Christ Child*. According to museum records, these items date to the 1880s. The artifacts remain in the Chapel until after Labor Day weekend. Three items remain at the Chapel throughout the year. These

are the pulpit, altar stand, and desk. The pulpit and altar stand date to around 1878, while records indicate the desk is from the 1920s. All nine of the artifacts were originally in the Oahe Chapel prior to its removal from Peoria Flats. These artifacts aid visitors in interpreting the unique history of the Chapel. ❖

Oahe Chapel Preservation Society Membership Form

Membership investment is for one year. Members will receive the annual Oahe Chapel News to keep up-to-date with current projects at the Oahe Chapel. Members are also eligible to rent the chapel at a reduced rate of \$35. Donations are tax deductible where allowed by law.

Please detach this form and mail with check to:
Oahe Chapel Preservation Society, PO Box 7201, Pierre, SD 57501.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (optional): _____

Check one:

- Sustaining Membership \$500.00
 Patron Membership \$100.00
 Family Membership \$25.00
 Individual Membership \$15.00
 Enclosed is my one-time gift of \$ _____

Word Find Answers: 1) Riggs; 2) Ti Tanke Ohe; 3) Dakota; 4) Missouri; 5) Oahe; 6) Preservation; 7) Memorial